NEWCASTLE EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Newcastle Emlyn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1966 it is pleasing to report that the health of the population remained at a satisfactory level.

Work on both the water scheme and the sewage disposal scheme continued throughout the year. When completed both these schemes will not only add to the amenities of the town but will create an important factor in the maintenance of public health—it is to be hoped that both schemes will be completed without delay.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by my staff and to thank the Members of the Council for the wholehearted manner in which they have supported me. I also wish to thank my colleagues and their staff for their continued support and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICIALS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer—FRANCIS T. GEORGE, F.C.A., F.R.Econ.S.

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Official Address and telephone number: Public Health Department, 3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen. Carmarthen 5131.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector—W. J. GRIFFITHS.

Rating Officer—Miss S. A. M. DAVIES.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Newcastle Emlyn Urban District Authority covers an area of 208 acres. The rateable value of the area is £31,530, the sum represented by a penny rate £122 and the number of inhabited houses 310. The estimated mid-year home population by the Registrar-General is 680.

Newcastle Emlyn is a market town situated in the Teifi Valley in north-west Carmarthenshire, serving the needs of a scattered agricultural community living in the adjacent countryside, which includes a part of South Cardiganshire and of North Pembrokeshire. A milk products factory, a shirt factory, an egg-grading station, an omnibus depot, together with various shops and businesses provide employment for a number of the population. A branch railway line for goods traffic runs to the town and there is a secondary modern school and one primary school in the area. Excellent facilities are available for the marketing of animals, and marts are held regularly. The town and the surrounding district continues to be a popular tourist and fisherman's resort, and during the holiday season there is an influx of visitors to the area. A fair proportion of the residents have come to live here in retirement,

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS: There were three live births (2 Males; 1 Female) during the year, and this gives a crude birth-rate of 4.41 per 1,000 of the population.

STILLBIRTHS: There were no still-births.

INFANT DEATHS: There were no infant deaths.

DEATHS (ALL AGES): Deaths during the year totalled ten (6 males; 4 females), giving a crude death rate of 14.71 per 1,000 population.

The causes of death were:—

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Ages in Years 45–	65–	75+
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	F	1	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M	1	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	F	1	—	1	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	M	1	—	—	1
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	2	1	1	—
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	M	1	—	1	—
Other Heart Disease	M	1	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	F	1	—	—	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ..	M	6	1	4	1
	F	4	—	1	3

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital, Laboratory and Ambulance facilities: The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen and Cardigan Hospital with provision for cases of infectious diseases at the West Wales Isolation Hospital, Upper Tumble, Nr. Llanelli. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen. Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases are held at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen. Free treatment may be obtained at these Clinics under conditions of secrecy and confidence. The clinics are held as follows:—

Males: First Friday of month—2.p.m. to 4 p.m.

Third Friday of month—4.30 p.m. to 6. p.m.

Females: First Friday of month—4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Third Friday of month 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Bacteriological and Pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory and the Pathological Department at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen, and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners.

Ambulance facilities including facilities for the transport of sitting car cases, are under the control of the County Council.

Home Nursing Services: This service is undertaken by one District Nurse under arrangements made by the County Council with the Newcastle Emlyn District Nursing Association. She also undertakes the midwifery work.

Child Health Clinic: One child health clinic is held.

Ante-Natal Clinics: No Ante-Natal Clinic has been established in the area.

The Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children: Arrangements are made for unmarried mothers to be admitted to one of the following hostels:—Northlands, Cardiff; Cwmdonkin Shelter, Swansea; The Llandaff Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee Hostel, Penarth or the St. Martin's Home, Hereford. These arrangements are made by the County Council and also the St. David's Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year now under review twenty cases of measles (9 males, 11 Females) were notified and of these eighteen were children under 10 years of age.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Tuberculosis Register has remained the same since the end of 1962, namely 4 Respiratory cases (2 males, 2 females) there being no new cases notified and no inward or outward transfers during the year.

A chest clinic is held in the town on the second and fourth Friday in each month when the Chest Physician sees patients referred to him by local medical practitioners.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics, received from the County Medical Officer of Health, relate to children in the Urban District immunised during the year:—

	Primary Immunisation		Boosters
	Children under 5 years	Children 5—14 years	
Quadruple Vaccine	1	—	—
Triple Antigen	14	2	9
Diphtheria/Tetanus	—	—	1
Tetanus only	—	—	1

Statistics relating to poliomyelitis vaccination are for the County as a whole, and are as follows :—

Age Groups	Number of persons who have received 3 doses of oral vaccine
Children born 1966	215
Children born 1965	1,026
Children born 1964	279
Children born 1963	81
Children born 1959-1962 ..	282
Others under 16 years	54

Number of persons given reinforcing dose of oral vaccine—120

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of the 1948 Act—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am pleased to report that no case called for action to be taken by the Council during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Waste water detection continued during the year so as to eliminate unnecessary loss from this factor. The work on the new storage reservoir which will augment the present supply was commenced, and leaks and bursts in the town mains. when they occurred, were dealt with by the Council's workmen.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

It is pleasing to report that satisfactory progress was maintained on the new sewage disposal scheme for the town. This scheme should be fully operational in 1967 and is being carried out jointly with the Teifiside Rural District Council and Newcastle Emlyn Rural District Council.

HOUSING

During the year the 36 dwellings on the Blaenwern Estate came into occupation.

SCAVENGING AND RODENT CONTROL

The once weekly collection of refuse in the town operated satisfactorily. This service is underataken by the Newcastle Emlyn Rural District Council following an agreement made in 1964 between both Authorities. The Rural District Council also provide facilities for the disposal of the refuse at their disposal site at Llanllwni.

The Council's workmen (under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector) again dealt with cases of rat infestation when they occurred.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS

The Food and Drugs Authority for the area is the County Council. Mr. E. G. Nicholls, Chief Inspector of the County Council, reports as follows on work done during the year in the area of the Newcastle Emlyn Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the various Regulations and Orders made thereunder:—

Total number of samples submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis ..	28
Informal samples of milk tested for compositional quality by the Food and Drugs Officers	10
Milk samples sent for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili	15
	53

Milk samples tested for compositional quality

Nine formal samples of milk were procured from retailers and were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. Eight of these samples were reported to be genuine in compositional quality whereas the remaining sample was reported to be slightly deficient in Non-fatty solids due to natural causes.

The above nine milk samples were also tested by the Public Analyst for the presence of antibiotics. All the samples were reported to be free from any traces of antibiotics.

Ten informal samples of milk supplied to schools were tested at this office by the Food and Drugs Officers. All the samples were found to be genuine in butter-fat and non-fatty-solids content.

Miscellaneous articles of Food and Drugs

Ninteen samples of various foodstuffs and drugs were procured at shops in the area and were submitted to the Public Analyst. All the samples were reported to be genuine in compositional quality.

Milk samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili.

Pasteurised Milk

The eight samples submitted were reported to have satisfied the prescribed tests for adequacy of heat-treatment and bacteriological quality.

Untreated Milk

Satisfied the prescribed test for bacteriological quality ..	2
Failed to satisfy the prescribed test	2
	4

Milk samples examined for Brucella Abortus

Three samples of Untreated Milk were submitted for examination for Brucella Abortus at the Public Health Laboratory. The three samples were reported to be free from infection.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Record of visits for 1966:—

General Sanitation

Nature of Visit or Inspection	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	200
Drainage	80
Bakehouses	6
Public Conveniences	50
Refuse Collection	20
Rats and Mice	14
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	40

Housing

Under Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	54
Visits paid to above houses	70
Miscellaneous housing visits	10

Meat and Food Inspection

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops

Number of slaughterhouses in area	1
Number of visits to the above slaughterhouse	312
Number of visits to Shops and Stalls	24
Number of visits to Butchers	12

Ice-Cream

Number of Ice-Cream Manufacturers in area	1
Number of Ice-Cream Retailers in area	8

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955
The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960:

During the year the Public Health Inspector made visits to various food premises in the town and on the whole conditions were found to be satisfactory.

	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16	*No. to which Reg.* 19 *applies*	*No. fitted to comply with Reg.* 19
Grocers' Shops (8)	6	8	6
Greengrocers' Shops (1)	—	1	—
Bakers' Shops (1)	1	1	1
Butchers' Shops (3)	3	3	3
Cafes (2)	2	2	2

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regs. 1963

No. of egg pasteurisation plants in the district——Nil

Foodstuffs condemned by the Public Health Inspector at Shops etc. (excluding the Slaughterhouse):—

Fruit Products—29 tins.
Meat Products—11 tins.

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by burial on the Refuse Disposal Site.

Poultry Processing Premises

No. of poultry processing premises in the district—Nil

Housing

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	25
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	30

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sect. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957 and Sect. 26 Housing Act, 1961	Nil

Unfit Houses made Fit:

	By Owner
After informal action by local Authority	Nil

Housing (Financial Provision) Act, 1958, as amended:

Housing (House Purchase and Housing Act) 1959:

Number of Applications for Discretionary Grants approved during the year	Nil
Number of Applications for Standard Grants approved during the year	4

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

There is one private slaughterhouse operating in the area which has been modernised to the required standard and approved by the Ministry.

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, which have now been operating for over three years, all food animals slaughtered within the district have been examined by the Public Health Inspector, and the carcases passed fit for human consumption have been marked with a distinguishing stamp.

The following animals were examined during the year:—

Number of Cattle (including cows)	529
Number of Calves	Nil
Number of Sheep and Lambs	3429
Number of Pigs	462

Details of Meat Condemned at the Slaughterhouse:—

1,430 lbs. Ox Liver—Distomatosis.
180 lbs. Sheep Liver—Distomatosis.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

It is to be regretted that little, if any progress has been made in the operation of the above Act. Not only lack of staff, but the increased pressure of work resulting in particular from meat inspection and waste water detection leaves no time for such duties.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1961: Duties of the Sanitary Authority under the Factories Acts have been carried out by the Public Health Inspector as part of his routine work, and a close liaison has been maintained with the District Inspector of Factories.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	8	15	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	3	9	—	—
Total ..	11	24	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

The return required under Part VIII of the Act is "Nil."

CARMARTHEN
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